

Senate Bill No. 2014

CHAPTER 737

An act to amend Section 25205.5 of, and to add Section 25205.9 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to hazardous waste.

[Approved by Governor September 21, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 22, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2014, Schiff. Hazardous waste generator fees: recycled materials.

Existing law requires every generator of hazardous waste to pay an annual generator fee to the State Board of Equalization but exempts, from those fees, hazardous materials that are recycled and used onsite, and certain aqueous wastes. Existing law also imposes a fee upon the operators of certain hazardous waste facilities. The revenues from those fees are required to be deposited in the Hazardous Waste Control Account in the General Fund and the money in that account is available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the Department of Toxic Substances Control for hazardous waste management.

This bill would provide that a generator who pays a hazardous waste generator inspection fee to a certified unified program agency, which fee is imposed pursuant to the CUPA single fee system, is eligible for a refund of the generator fee, under specified conditions, and would provide that a generator who transfers hazardous materials to an offsite facility for recycling at that offsite facility or another offsite facility is eligible for a refund of the generator fee, under specified conditions. The bill would require the department to determine, on or before June 30 of each year, if there are surplus funds in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and to allocate those surplus funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to pay refunds to these generators, in a specified order of priority. The bill would require the board to issue refunds, in the manner directed by the department to eligible hazardous waste generators, if funds for these refunds are available.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25205.5 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

25205.5. (a) In addition to the fee imposed pursuant to Section 25174.1, every generator of hazardous waste, in the amounts specified in subdivision (c), shall pay the board a generator fee for each

generator site for each calendar year, or portion thereof, unless the generator has paid a facility fee or received a credit, as specified in Section 25205.2, for each specific site, for the calendar year for which the generator fee is due.

(b) The base fee rate for the fee imposed pursuant to subdivision (a) is two thousand seven hundred forty-eight dollars (\$2,748).

(c) (1) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, five tons, but less than 25 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay 5 percent of the base rate.

(2) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 25 tons, but less than 50 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay 40 percent of the base rate.

(3) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 50 tons, but less than 250 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay the base rate.

(4) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 250 tons, but less than 500 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay five times the base rate.

(5) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 500 tons, but less than 1,000 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay 10 times the base rate.

(6) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 1,000 tons, but less than 2,000 tons, of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay 15 times the base rate.

(7) Each generator who generates an amount equal to, or more than, 2,000 tons of hazardous waste during the prior calendar year shall pay 20 times the base rate.

(d) The base rate established pursuant to subdivision (b) was the base rate for the 1997 calendar year and the board shall adjust the base rate annually to reflect increases or decreases in the cost of living, during the prior fiscal year, as measured by the Consumer Price Index issued by the Department of Industrial Relations or by a successor agency.

(e) The establishment of the annual operating fee pursuant to this section is exempt from Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

(f) The following materials are not hazardous wastes for purposes of this section:

(1) Hazardous materials which are recycled, and used onsite, and are not transferred offsite.

(2) Aqueous waste treated in a treatment unit operating, or which subsequently operates, pursuant to a permit-by-rule, or pursuant to Section 25200.3 or 25201.5. However, hazardous waste generated by a treatment unit treating waste pursuant to a permit-by-rule, by a unit which subsequently obtains a permit-by-rule, or other authorization pursuant to Section 25200.3 or 25201.5 is hazardous waste for purposes of this section.

(g) The fee imposed pursuant to this section shall be paid in accordance with Part 22 (commencing with Section 43001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

(h) (1) A generator who pays a hazardous waste generator inspection fee to a certified unified program agency, which is imposed as part of a single fee system and fee accountability program that are both in compliance with the requirements of Section 25404.5, shall be eligible for a refund of all, or part of, the generator fee paid pursuant to subdivision (a) if both of the following conditions apply:

(A) The generator received a credit pursuant to Section 43152.7 or 43152.11 of the Revenue and Taxation Code for fees paid for hazardous waste generated in 1996.

(B) The department certifies, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25205.9, that funds are available to pay all or part of the refund.

(2) A generator who is eligible for a refund pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit an application for that refund to the board by March 31 of the fiscal year during which the generator paid the generator fee pursuant to subdivision (a). An application for a refund postmarked after March 31 is void, shall not be processed by the board, and shall be returned to the applicant.

(i) (1) A generator who transfers hazardous materials to an offsite facility for recycling at that offsite facility or another offsite facility shall be eligible for a refund of all, or part of, the generator fee paid pursuant to subdivision (a) if all of the following conditions apply:

(A) The offsite facility to which the hazardous materials are manifested pays a facility fee pursuant to Section 25205.2.

(B) The amount of hazardous materials transferred to the offsite facility and recycled there, when deducted from the total tonnage of hazardous waste generated at the generator's site, results in the generator becoming eligible for a generator fee that is lower than the fee paid pursuant to subdivision (a).

(C) The hazardous materials transferred to the offsite facility are not burned in a boiler, industrial furnace, or an incinerator, as those terms are defined in Section 260.10 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, used in a manner constituting disposal, or used to produce products that are applied to land.

(D) The department certifies, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 25205.9, that funds are available to pay all or part of the refund.

(2) A generator who is eligible for a refund pursuant to paragraph (1) shall submit an application for that refund to the board by March 31 of the fiscal year during which the generator paid the generator fee pursuant to subdivision (a). An application for a refund postmarked after March 31 is void, shall not be processed by the board, and shall be returned to the applicant.

(j) (1) The amendment of this section made by Chapter 1125 of the Statutes of 1991 does not constitute a change in, but is declaratory of, existing law.

(2) The amendment of subdivision (a) of this section made by Chapter 259 of the Statutes of 1996 does not constitute a change in, but is declaratory of, existing law.

SEC. 2. Section 25205.9 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

25205.9. (a) On or before June 30 of each year, the department shall determine if there are surplus funds in the Hazardous Waste Control Account and shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, allocate these surplus funds to pay refunds in the following order of priority:

(1) To pay refunds to generators pursuant to subdivision (c).

(2) To pay refunds to generators pursuant to subdivision (d). However, the department shall not pay refunds pursuant to subdivision (d) until all applications for refunds pursuant to subdivision (c) have first been paid.

(b) The department shall certify the amount of the surplus in the Hazardous Waste Control Account to the board and shall direct the board to pay refunds to generators pursuant to subdivisions (c) and (d) to the extent funds permit. If funds are not sufficient to pay all the refunds for which the board receives applications pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 25205.5, the department shall direct the board to pay refunds pursuant to subdivision (c) on a pro rata basis. If funds are sufficient to pay all refunds for which applications are received pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 25205.5 but not sufficient to pay all refunds for which applications were received by the board pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 25205.5, the department shall direct the board to pay refunds pursuant to subdivision (d) on a pro rata basis.

(c) (1) If the department certifies that there are sufficient funds to do so, the board shall issue refunds, in the manner directed by the department pursuant to subdivision (b), to hazardous waste generators who are eligible for refunds pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (h) of Section 25205.5.

(2) The refund made to a generator pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed the fee paid by the generator pursuant to Section 25205.5, or exceed the hazardous waste generator inspection fee paid to the certified unified program agency in the previous calendar year, whichever is less.

(3) The board may issue refunds pursuant to this section only if the department certifies, pursuant to subdivision (b), that funds for these refunds are available.

(d) (1) If the department certifies that there are sufficient funds to do so, the board shall issue refunds, in the manner directed by the department pursuant to subdivision (b), to hazardous waste

generators who are eligible for refunds pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (i) of Section 25205.5.

(2) The refund made to a generator pursuant to this subdivision shall be equal to the difference between the amount of the generator fee paid by the generator pursuant to Section 25205.5 and the amount the generator would have paid if the amount of hazardous materials transferred to an offsite facility for recycling had been deducted from the total tonnage of hazardous waste generated at the generator's site. However, if a generator receives a refund pursuant to subdivision (c), the generator may not receive a refund pursuant to this subdivision that exceeds the difference between the amount of the generator fee paid pursuant to Section 25205.5 and the amount of the refund received pursuant to subdivision (c).

(3) The board may issue refunds pursuant to this subdivision only if the department certifies, pursuant to subdivision (b), that funds for these refunds are available.

(e) For purposes of this section, "surplus" means the amount in the Hazardous Waste Control Account on June 30 of each year that is in excess of the reserve required by subdivision (k) of Section 25174.

